



'Tis not a set of features, or complexion,
The tincture of a skin, that I admire;
Beauty soon grows familiar to the lover,
Fades upon his eye, and palls upon his
senses.

ADDISON'S Cato.

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Print
No

T H E
BROTHER'S GIFT;

OR, THE

NAUGHTY GIRL REFORMED.

PUBLISHED FOR

The ADVANTAGE of the rising
GENERATION.

Ye BRITISH LADIES, would you wish to see
A beauteous Offspring prating round your Knee,
Shun, shun each flippant Coxcomb of the Mall,
The Masquerade, the Rout, the midnight Ball;
In Lieu of these, more useful Arts pursue,
And, as you're FAIR, be wise and virtuous too.

D U B L I N:

Printed by GEORGE BONHAM, at
No. 37, in William-street, 1775.

[Price TWO-PENCE.]

T H E

BROTHER'S GIFT;

OR THE

NAUGHTY GIRL REFORMED.

WHEN we consider the advantage of an useful education, that it is attainable by the most common capacities, and that it is the basis of the chief happiness and enjoyment of this life, it will appear wonderful, that it should be in the least neglected. Young ladies in general are taught to read, to write, to work a little catgut, and to dance; and perhaps a tune or two on the Spinnet, or the lisping of a little French, finishes the course of their studies, and sends them into the world fit objects to be deceived and undone.

But

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But these are not sufficient to make a young lady truly amiable; the indulgent Parent, who would wish to see her daughter figure in life, not only ornamentally, but usefully, will have other objects in view; and while she is learning her to read, will tell her also what she ought to read; while she is writing, will lay before her the most approved examples of Epistolary Correspondence; while she is working laces, will endeavour to convince her that the less dress is studied, the more natural and pleasing it will be. She will inform her, that she is to study music as an amusement only; and, that all that dancing can do is to give a graceful ease to her carriage. Nay, these are but the beginnings of her care; there are other matters still more necessary,

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and of an higher nature, and these are the impressing of her mind with every proper idea of Religion and Virtue.

Miss Kitty Bland, was apt, forward, and head-strong ; and had it not been for the care of her brother Billy, would probably have witnessed all the disadvantages of a modern education. She had been bred at a boarding-school, and returned home perfectly spoilt. If she was desired to read, she did it either in so great a hurry that you could hardly catch one word in five, or else drawled out every sentence in so disagreeable a manner, that it was wearisome to attend to her : sometimes she would be as loud as a colonel at the head of a regiment, and at other times so low, as not to be heard distinctly. If she wrote a letter to an acquaintance,

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quaintance, you would hardly find a sentence that was grammatical, much less elegant; she would frequently speak a little French, before people who did not understand that language, merely to shew the superiority of her breeding; her dancing was stiff and awkward, her music inelegant, and every thing she did bordered strongly upon affectation.

Here was a large field of reformation for her brother Billy. He first of all began to correct some bad habits which she had contracted; and having an opportunity one day, when they were alone in the parlour, he expostulated with her in the following manner:

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My little dear, quoth he, before I begin to tell you what you should do, to make the world love and admire you, give me leave to mention a few things, which you ought not to do.

“ Hurt nobody, speak ill of nobody, tell lies of nobody; lying indeed is a vice, which, of all others, I would

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would have you cautious of avoiding. There is one thing more which you should scrupulously attend to, and that is, to forbear tale-bearing, because, of all others, it will render you the most odious to your companions.”



He then desired her to sit down
and write a letter to Miss Colson ;
this

10 The Brother's Gift ; or the

this she did with a very ill will ; and when it was finished, he found the scrawl so shocking, and the spelling so vile, that it was impossible to correct it. He therefore begged of her, by all the love and regard she had for him, to make a second trial. She burst out a crying ; he expostulated with her ; but at length she told him plainly, that she would not. “ Nay, then, (quoth he) my dear, you give up one of the most useful qualifications in the world ; for if it was not for the Art of Writing, all our knowledge would be confined to the narrow circle of our own experience and observation ; but by means of this, we can enjoy the knowledge and experience of those who have lived many ages before us. By the assistance of this art you may converse with
your

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your friends, though many miles apart; and you may preserve on paper whatever you read, hear, or see, that is worth remembering; and which it would be impossible for your memory to retain. Nay, it is a qualification as polite as useful, and none should pretend to the character of an accomplished lady, who could not write a distinct and legible hand."

Miss Kitty was so struck with what her brother had said, that she immediately took pen in hand to write a second; which she executed as well as any little lady in the kingdom.

It happened that her brother had desired her to make him a dozen of shirts; and as soon as the first of them was done, Mrs. Cary, the house-keeper, presented it to him; but
the

12 The Brother's Gift; or the
the wristbands were so carelessly
stitched, and the ruffles so shockingly
hemmed, that he found great fault
with it. Mrs. Cary indeed told
him she was sure Miss could do bet-
ter if she would; wherefore he



took her aside, and spoke to her to
the following effect:

“ My

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“ My dear Kitty,” said he, “ I am astonished you should be so careless in your needle-work ; since there is no female accomplishment more useful than this. How greatly does it contribute to render our persons more decent, more agreeable, and more beautiful ! I do not mean that you should apply so much to your needle as to hurt your eyes or constitution ; all I mean is, that you should not despise this qualification as mean, and beneath the character of a gentlewoman ; for I will venture to say, there never was an accomplished lady without a competent skill in this art.”

This conversation also had the desired effect ; for no milliner in Dublin could have finished a shirt better than the remainder were done, for which reason, as a mark of approbation,

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probation, her brother made her a
present of a fine gold thimble; and
here it is:



Lady Danvers, Sir William
Saunders, and his lady, 'Squire
Airy, and his lady, with several
other persons of distinction, hap-
pening to make a visit one day to
Mr. Bland; Miss Kitty was intro-
duced to them, and would certain-
ly have been greatly admired, if her
brother had not the mortification to
find that she engrossed all the con-
versation to herself. He thought it
necessary, therefore, to give her a
lecture upon a *Suitable Behaviour in
Company*; which he delivered in the
following terms: " My

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“ My dear sister,” said he, “ I would have you first learn to think, before you presume to speak. Sit silent, and listen attentively to the conversation of those who are older and wiser than yourself: when you are admitted into the company of those who are your superiors in age, sense, and experience, endeavour to profit by their wise reflections, and judicious remarks. If you are perpetually prattling and tattling yourself, how can you attend to the conversation of others, by whom you may be improved ? In a word, were I to allow you to babble in company at this early period of life, the consequence would be, that you would never be able to join in any conversation with sense and propriety. She that affects to be a woman too soon will remain a child as long

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long as she lives. After all, I do not mean that you should be kept silent too long; this would perhaps lead you into an awkward diffidence and bashfulness, which indeed it may be difficult to correct. I would only wish you to remember this old proverb, *Think TWICE before you speak ONCE, and you will speak TWICE the BETTER for it.*

“ My dear little girl, don't flout and be offended at my admonition, I only take pains to make you an ornament of society, and pattern to your sex: I am determined therefore, to watch all your miscarriages, and point out your defects; but that I may have as little trouble as possible on this head, I will now present you with *The History of Miss Polly Thimble*, which your good friend Mr. George Bonham, at
Horace's

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Horace's head in William street, has prepared for you."



As Miss Kitty advanced in age, she shewed a strange inclination to dress. Therefore, lest she should fall into its follies, her attentive brother delivered the following observations upon it :

B

" I hope,

18 The Brother's Gift ; or the

“ I hope, my dear, I shall never live to see you dress in an indecent or gaudy manner, but always with modesty, as well as elegance ; the original intention of dress, was to defend the body from cold ; and therefore how unnatural is it in you to leave your neck and breast bare, which are the tenderest, and most delicate parts of the human body. This custom is very pernicious ; and I really believe, that nineteen in twenty of the diseases incident to the fair sex, are owing to this foolish manner of dressing. In short, my dear sister, dress has been frequently, and, I believe, justly considered as an indication of the inward dispositions of the mind. A modest and decent dress bespeaks the wearer to be a person of sense and sobriety. A gaudy and affected one betrays

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betrays a weak head, or a licentious heart. Withdraw, pray, for half an hour to your toilet, and let me



see how prettily you can dress yourself, without the assistance of so much frippery and nonsense."

Mr. Bland, notwithstanding all the admonitions he had bestowed

B 2

upon

20 'The Brother's Gift; or the

upon his sister, still observed that she was of a very indolent disposition; he therefore thought it necessary to place before her view the bad consequences of idleness.

"Idleness, my dear," quoth he, "is a most pernicious and fatal vice, whether we consider its influence on the mind or the body. It weakens the strength, and impaires the beauty of the latter; for an indolent person will hardly be at the pains to take so much exercise as is necessary to keep the body in health and vigour. It stupifies and benumbs the understanding; for she will not take the trouble to improve it, either by reading or conversation. Nay it will even corrupt and debase the heart; for it is inconsistent with a state of ease and indolence, to have the strong, but
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fine affections of love, pity, compassion, sorrow, sympathy, and the like, frequently awakened and excited in the breast: and yet, if these tender passions are not frequently excited, either by real or imaginary objects, the heart will gradually become hard and unfeeling, and at last perfectly callous and insensible.



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“ This disease of idleness has different effects upon different tempers. What tempts Mrs. Stanley to spend the greatest part of her time in scandal and defamation? Why, 'tis idleness working upon a disposition naturally sour and splenetick.



What makes Mr. Temple trifle
away

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away his whole life in an insipid round of public and private diversions? Because he has got nothing else to do; 'tis idleness working upon the natural levity and giddiness of his mind. In a word, idleness is the parent, or at least the nurse, of most of the follies and vices incident to human nature, and from which we might easily be preserved, would we only take care to keep ourselves always engaged, either in some useful employment, or innocent amusement. I shall, therefore, endeavour to point out such employments and amusements as appear to be most proper for one of your age and quality.

“ But first, my dear, I must observe that you are greatly mistaken, in thinking that your education is entirely finished. I trust you are

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no more under the direction of teachers : but, what then? are you therefore to lay aside all further care and concern about the several parts of your education? If you do, you may depend upon it you will very soon forget them ; and then all the instruction you have got will go for nothing. As therefore you would wish to retain the different arts and accomplishments you have learned, you must take care to be frequently practising them ; for by this means only can they be remembered.

“ But, my dear, you ought not only to remember what you have learned, you ought to do more ; you ought to be making daily progress and improvement in all the different parts of your education : for, if you are not gaining ground,
you

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you may be sure you are losing it : there is no such thing as standing still. Learning is like climbing up a steep ascent ; if you are not moving upwards, you will be in danger of sliding down to the bottom. Besides, teachers seldom do any more, and indeed they hardly can do any more, than to point out the road, and shew us the way : it is our business to profit and improve by their advice and directions : if we do not, all the teaching and instruction in the world will never make us good for any thing. A person possessed of no taste or genius, will never learn any polite art or accomplishment, had she an angel for an instructor ; and she that is careless and negligent, will as certainly forget what she has learned,

“ Let

26 The Brother's Gift; or the

“Let me therefore persuade you, my dear Kitty, to employ two or three hours every day, in revising all the different parts of your education. By this means you will at once impress them on your memory, and acquire such an ease and facility in performing, as can only be obtained by careful and constant practice. But, though I would have you carefully to review all the arts and accomplishments you have learned, yet I think you ought, at the same time, to make a distinction. There are some of them, such as music, dancing, drawing, and the like, which are merely, or at least, chiefly ornamental. There are others, which, besides being ornamental, are likewise useful, such as writing, arithmetick, geography, and needle-work. For, whatever
you

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you may think at present, you will be convinced, when you come to understand the true value of things, that what is useful, is of infinitely greater consequence and importance than what is only ornamental."

F I N I S.

The Books usually read by Master BILLY and Miss KITTY are these : and they are sold by G. BONHAM, at No. 37, in William-street, Dublin.

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